

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 IGA-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05

SS-15 STR-01 CEA-01 L-02 AGR-05 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /077 W

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4535

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RABAT 0684

FOR AMBASSADOR NEUMANN (NEA/AFN) FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID MO

SUBJECT: WHEAT FOR MOROCCO

REF: RABAT 680

1. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF FINANCE MINISTER'S WRITTEN REQUEST, DISDIER, GILBERT, WRIGHT AND I HAVE REVIEWED AVAILABLE DATA ON REAL DIMENSIONS OF REQUIREMENT, IMPLICATIONS FOR GOM BUDGETARY AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE POSITIONS, AND SO FORTH. USAID/M HAS PULLED TOGETHER ADDITIONAL DATA ON BUDGETARY AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE OUTLOOK WHICH TEND SUPPORT GENERAL POSITION WE TOOK IN BRIEFING MEMORANDA WE GAVE YOU PRIOR YOUR DEPARTURE. AS FOR FURTHER REFINEMENTS OF MISSION POSITION, WE DON'T THINK WE ARE YET IN ANY SHAPE, IN TERMS OF EITHER TIME OR DATA ALREADY AVAILABLE HERE, TO GO MUCH BEYOND WHAT WE SAID IN BRIEFING MEMORANDA, (ONE PROBLEM WE HAVE FLAGGED FOR FURTHER STUDY IS WHETHER MOROCCAN PORTS PHYSICALLY CAPABLE OF HANDLING MUCH MORE THAN TWO MILLION TONS OF WHEAT IMPORTS IN ANY ONE TWELVE-MONTH PERIOD.)

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2. MISSION IS PULLING TOGETHER DATA ON (A) CURRENT AND PROJECTED FOODGRAIN SUPPLY SITUATION (STOCKS, PRODUCTION, IMPORTS, CARRYOVER, ETC.) AND (B) RECENT IMPORTS (AMOUNTS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN). HOPE TO HAVE SOMETHING BY NEXT WEEK. MEANWHILE, GILBERT HAS JUST FINISHED HIS ANNUAL OVERVIEW OF MOROCCAN AGRICULTURAL SITUATION (AGRICULTURE REPORT MO-5003 OF FEBRUARY 3) WHICH IS BEING POUCHED. FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE USE I SHOULD LIKE TO QUOTE HERE ONE PARTICULARLY RELEVANT PARAGRAPH: QUOTE AGRICULTURAL TRADE. IMPORTS WILL BE UP (PERHAPS TO RECORD LEVELS) BOTH DURING THE REMAINDER OF THE 1974/75 MARKETING YEAR AND DURING THE 1975/76 YEAR BECAUSE OF THE POOR CROP EXPECTED THIS SUMMER. PURCHASES OF GRAINS FOR THIS YEAR (NOTE: JULY 1974 TO JUNE 1975) AND ALREADY AT 1.2 MILLION TONS (INCLUDING 100,000 TONS OF BARLEY) AND THOSE OF NEXT YEAR (NOTE: JULY 1975 TO JUNE 1976) COULD WELL BE DOUBLE THIS. FORTUNATELY, HIGHER PRICES FOR PHOSPHATES AND A CONTINUED HIGH LEVEL OF WORKERS' REMITTANCES FROM EUROPE HAVE THUS FAR ENABLED MOROCCO TO MAKE THESE PURCHASES FOR CASH, BUT IF THE LEVEL GETS TOO HIGH OR FOREIGN EXCHANGE INCOME DROPS APPRECIABLY, THEN THE SITUATION WILL BECOME MUCH MORE DIFFICULT. AS MENTIONED ABOVE, CITRUS EXPORTS ARE ALREADY EXPECTED TO BE DOWN MORE THAN 25 PERCENT FROM THE NOT LARGE EXPORTS OF 1973/74. UNQUOTE

3. TRUST YOU WILL LET US KNOW IF YOU NEED ANYTHING ELSE FROM THIS END WHILE YOU ARE STILL IN WASHINGTON. REGARDS.
COON

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